

**SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2008**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, August 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Console, Forrest, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Montinieri, and Chairperson Adil.

Absent: Councilor Hemmann

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Chairperson Adil said that last week there was a very tragic situation at the Town Council meeting with the ultimate passing of Mr. Tevald and also the loss of a young life in Old Wethersfield. He expressed his sympathies to both families. Mr. Tevald was very compassionate and diligent in attending the Town Council meetings and was a respected member of the community. His life ending in this setting was very difficult for everyone here. He thanked the staff, Fire, Police and emergency services personnel who responded so admirably. He also commended Councilor Console for his assistance with the emergency personnel.

He called for a moment of silence for Ed Tevald and Ian Wells.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARINGS

ORDINANCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RENUMBERED 2008 CODE

RESOLUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, LOCATED IN DEMHS REGION 3, REGARDING STATE USE OF FUNDING GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF MIDDLETOWN AVENUE FROM SPRING STREET NORTH TO BROAD STREET ABOUT 1500 FEET

RESOLUTION ADOPTING CAPITOL REGION PRE-DISASTER NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN**ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SECTION 139 - REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS**

No one wished to be heard and Chairperson Adil declared the Hearings closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frances Tevald, 894 Ridge Road, expressed her thanks to the Town Council for all that they did for her husband, Ed Tevald. She said that her husband felt very strongly about attending the Town Council meetings. He was always ready to fight for a cause. He was interested and concerned about this Town. She said that she encouraged him to attend the meetings and do what he thought was right and he did that. She read a poem and thanked the Town Councilors and emergency personnel again for being with her husband during his last moments and trying so hard to save his life.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that he has been active with the Town Council for a long time as well as State and National issues. He talked about heroes, the plain and ordinary citizen who persistently addresses his ideas. Ed Tevald was a hero. He answered the call of his Country in World War II and continued to answer his call up to his untimely death. He addressed abuse of power, uncontrolled spending, and the Town Council's five minute rule. He will be sorely missed.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that Mr. Tevald was a generous individual that will be missed. He had foresight and understood what was going on in Town. He said he had several conversations with Mr. Tevald about high taxes and high spending. It will be more difficult for many to live in Town with the continued spending. Taxes have gone up so fast in the last five years. He thanked Councilor Console for his help at the last meeting. He said what bothered him at the last meeting was that the clock was ticking and precious moments were very important when someone has fallen. He couldn't understand why people were not here faster. He said that he did not see the last Town Council meeting televised. He said that there were three speakers that came to the podium that night and the tape should be played. People should be able to see how dedicated Mr. Tevald was. He said that it won't be played because it is damaging to the Town Council but he hoped it would. He thanked the Wethersfield Post for the article about the situation last Monday night. He said that he looked in the Hartford Courant on Tuesday and Wednesday and didn't see anything which confirms that the Town controls the news.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, said that Ian Wells died on the same day this year as another youngster died last year. She said that she spent time at the Capital with a group called Mothers United Against Violence who was holding a rally this morning. There are children killed in

Hartford on a daily basis. As the Town Council celebrates the life of a gentleman named Ed Tevald, it must also celebrate the lives of all children that die too soon.

Dave Brody, property owner of 1862 Berlin Turnpike, said that he has owned this property since 1964. He said that there are pot holes on the road and he was told that the Town does not own Pent Road. He said that he doesn't own it. The motel next door doesn't own it. He was told that it is not on the register of the Town but there is a street sign on the corner. He said that he has a survey and site sketch listing Pent Road. He finds it hard to believe that Pent Road does not exist anymore. He and the folks at the motel are asking that the Town continue to maintain Pent Road.

COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Councilor Kotkin said that the Budget and Finance Committee met and went through a number of items. It looked at how the Town ended fiscal year 07-08. It appears that the Town came in a bit below revenue and expenditures came in quite a bit below. The revenue in excess of expenditures should be about \$400,000 to the good. Some of that revenue was used for this year's budget to keep down the tax increase. By the end of October the final audit should be in. The Committee started to look at a fraud prevention policy and will continue to review it before it is brought to the Town Council. The Committee also looked at delinquent motor vehicle accounts that were due a year ago. There is about \$130,000 in unpaid motor vehicle accounts. The policy question for the Town Council is what should be done about this. With real property, the Tax Collector can place liens but that doesn't help with the motor vehicle accounts. One item brought to the Committee by the Tax Collector was that under State law, the Town has the ability to go into bank accounts of the owner of the vehicle and basically take a portion of the bank account to offset the taxes. The Committee is looking for some more information on this practice and has not endorsed it at this time. Also, does the Town post unpaid motor vehicle taxes on the Town website? The four members were favorable to it but wanted to get the opinion of the full Council. There was also a discussion about an appeal process for an elderly tax abatement. One of the Town's elderly taxpayers was unable to apply by the deadline due to an illness. Should the Town have some sort of appeal process? Other towns do, Wethersfield does not. Another item discussed was a modest tax abatement on vehicles that get over 40 miles to the gallon. It is a pilot under State law that was passed in 2007. It would be a very modest reduction off of the valuation of the vehicle. It would amount to \$30 or \$40 a year. It would be a statement that the Town is supporting its citizens. Another item, as of a week ago, only one Town Councilor has turned in his/her Town Manager and Town Clerk reviews into the Assistant to the Town Manager. He encouraged the Town Councilors to do that, so that the Committee can move on with the annual reviews. And lastly, the Town Manager's search process has begun with the publicizing of a request for a consultant to help the Town with the process. The proposals are due at the end of the week and the Committee will determine if interviews need to be done. A recommendation will be made for the September 15th meeting for a vote by the full Town Council.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that he would advocate for handling the automobile tax issue the way the real estate taxes are done. He cautioned that the Town should be mindful of some bureaucratic snags with the way leasing agencies report information to the Town. The automobile owners may not be aware that the funding hasn't been sent. He said that he wants to make sure that the information from the leasing companies is accurate. He asked if it would be possible for anyone other than the Budget and Finance Committee members to sit in on the meeting discussing the proposals for the consultant for the Town Manager's position.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that if five members attended the meeting, it would be considered a special Town Council meeting.

Councilor Roberts said that the document that Councilor Kotkin was referencing concerning back taxes was for the 2006 tax year. She said that she thinks that the Town has done due diligence in making sure the lease issue isn't a problem. The Tax Collector has sent several notices to these taxpayers.

Councilor Forrest said that the Public Works and Infrastructure Committees met and discussed street trees and Town trees. It was agreed to pass the issue on to the Shade Tree Commission for its review. The second issue was parking on the snow shelf. It has increased in the past few years. A small taskforce will be created to look at this issue. A Green Summit II will be held on November 8th and will be all about energy. There will be vendors and citizens can attend and find ways to make their houses more energy efficient through new technologies.

Councilor Walsh said that the second part of the Redevelopment Forum will be October 15th. More information will follow.

Councilor Roberts said that she will remember Mr. Tevald's smile. He had a lot of common sense. She said that the poem, One More Minute, that was read at the funeral mass was beautiful. The property on Highland Street and Stonegate Drive has weeds four feet high. She asked that the property owner maintain it.

Councilor Cascio said that he is still receiving phone calls about the mosquito spraying. He asked for an update.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she asked residents of Old Wethersfield if the mosquito problem is better and has been told that it has improved. The Monday before the fogging, dunks were also placed in the catch basins. These dunks kill the breeding of the mosquitoes. She said that she received some calls requesting spraying in other areas. The spraying budget was cut back in this year's budget. If additional spraying is done now, funding will not be available for the spring. With the dry weather this week, the mosquitoes should be better.

8/25/08

14707

Councilor Cascio said that the calls he received were from the Elm Street area. Was that area part of the fogging?

Bonnie Therrien said that it was fogged. The DMV, Cove, Physical Services, and the water areas along interstate 91 were all areas that were fogged.

Councilor Cascio expressed his sincere sympathy to the Tevald family. He always had a good conversation with Mr. Tevald.

Councilor Walsh said that he too is very sorry for the Tevald family's loss. He said that Mr. Tevald received the best attention available at the meeting last week. It was an amazing show of the community coming together. He said that the Wethersfield Historical Society book on the history of Wethersfield that is coming out in December is a herculean effort.

Chairperson Adil said that:

- The 9/11 Grand Opening will be Thursday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- The CT Department of Veteran's Affairs is sponsoring Stand Down 2008 on Friday, September 12th at the State Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill.
- The Chamber of Commerce Cornfest is Saturday, September 13th.
- The Secretary of the State will be honoring World War II Veterans on September 18th at the Community Center.
- Two weeks ago, the Japan Volunteer Firefighter's Association was in Wethersfield. The volunteers did a wonderful job presenting the Explorers and the Volunteer Firefighters.
- The Governor is working with Mayors on a food initiative. He urges people to donate to the food bank.
- He would like to see a separate initiative for the fuel bank just for seniors who qualify for assistance with taxes. Fuel will be very expensive this year and will be hard on senior citizens.
- There was a Core Services Meeting a few weeks ago and he would like a report on the follow up meetings to continue this process.
- He stopped by the Town Hall and looked at the progression of the work. The new street lights on the Silas Deane Highway are installed and some trees are impinging on the lights. The Town may need to speak with an arborist about pruning the trees.
- He would like a report on the Pent Road issue so that he can see both sides of the story.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Elizabeth M. Kirkpatrick D 154 Clearfield Road

14708

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Ruth Ann Schumaker

R 15 Raynor Lane

Mary Beth Dobmeier

D 42 South Pembroke Street

Patricia C. Viani

D 72 Sunrise Terrace” seconded by Councilor

Forrest.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VICTORIA YVETTE JONES TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A TERM FROM AUGUST 31, 2008 TO AUGUST 31, 2013”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JASON L. BOOKER TO PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FOR A TERM FROM AUGUST 18, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2011”** seconded by Councilor Console.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RENUMBERED 2008 CODE”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, said that all of the changes to or totally new ordinances included in the Code had already been approved by the Town Council. The renumbering is to put some of the ordinances in proper order after previous changes, such as: all funds in the same chapter and separating GIS from Police over time etc.

Councilor Kotkin said that one of the Town Clerk’s objectives, or goals, was to update the Town Code. The Code is on-line and also needs to be in hard copy. A lot of work has gone into it.

Town Clerk Sassano stated that five hard copies were received and a better system for keeping it updated is in place and will be followed with changes made posted to the web site, almost immediately, and hard copies distributed for the five books.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, LOCATED IN DEMHS REGION 3, REGARDING STATE USE OF FUNDING GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

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Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is the 2007 Homeland Security funds from the Federal Government. The State of Connecticut received \$10,400,000. The Capital Region Council of Governments will administer these funds and has received \$1,238,160. This will be to continue the regional approach to emergency management.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF MIDDLETOWN AVENUE FROM SPRING STREET NORTH TO BROAD STREET ABOUT 1500 FEET”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that every year the Town uses the funds for a major road project. This portion of Middletown Avenue runs from Spring Street to Broad Street.

Councilor Console asked about the new mulch sealing material.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said one resident complained about the stickiness. Another complaint came from a motorcyclist. The Public Works Subcommittee decided to try it again for the spring paving season.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CAPITOL REGION PRE-DISASTER NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a Federal Program for grant funds. The Capital Region Council of Governments approached Towns to see if they wanted to get involved with this program. This will help the Town establish a number of projects, that if there was a major emergency and the Town could correct the problems before an emergency, this would help the Town. It is a great opportunity for the Town to correct some infrastructure issues so that they do not cause more problems in an emergency.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD’S VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town has been working for some time on the rewriting of this pension plan. There have been a number of concerns over the years. This is a

more comprehensive plan for the fire fighters' pension money that they receive every year. As a part of this, the Town will be able to take the funding and put the money in different accounts. One item that was changed since the agenda package was sent out was the explanation of who is on the pension committee and who is the pension administrator.

Councilor Kotkin wanted to know how much is in the plan now and what is the process that the Town will go through to convert it.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she will put that information in the next management report.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Town has been restricted in how the money can be invested. The money can now be invested better and will yield higher returns. It will improve the benefit to the Town and volunteer firefighters.

Chairperson Adil said that this formalizes a percentage return for the firefighters. There was nothing in the prior document that gave a guarantee. A 2-4 percent range was added. In exchange for that the firefighters gave the Town the forfeitures which had gone into the pool and distributed among the rest of the fire fighters if someone didn't make it to vesture.

Councilor Console said that there was a nice story on Channel 3 news about the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department.

Councilor Roberts said a story ran last night as well. The Town is receiving some nice publicity.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SECTION 139 - REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town has received many complaints about residents leaving leaves on sidewalks and in the road after the pick up has been completed. There has never been anything in the ordinance to allow for the Town to enforce that leaves must be picked up after the Town has finished its leaf program. The Town will now be able to enforce the removal of the leaves by the homeowner after the leaf program is completed. This was approved by the Public Works Committee and the Town Attorney.

Chairperson Adil said that he took a lot of the phone calls from residents about leaves that were still in the road in the spring. The primary motivator was that some leaves block the drains and when the ice forms it creates hazards.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$1,500 FROM CONTINGENCY (1910-59250) TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE ACCOUNT (1210-54412)”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that during the upgrade of the Police Department’s records management system it was found that there is additional software that the Town needs to upgrade in order for the system to work properly. The cost for the upgrade is \$3,000. The Police Department has found \$1,500.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ENERGY PARAMETERS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AND HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that originally she was going to ask the Town Council to decide how far it wanted to go with the architectural services for energy during the renovations. She said now she is hearing that there is a thought that there should be a Fireside Chat with members of the Board of Education, Town Council, staff of both, the architects, and the energy committees. There is so much new information on this that it is overwhelming.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY PARAMETERS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AND HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BY WAY OF A FIRESIDE CHAT ARRANGED BY THE TOWN MANAGER”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Forrest said that the energy committees have been talking about making sure everyone is on the same page for this renovation as well as policies and future plans. The Energy Consultant’s scope of work needs to dovetail in with the renovations. He is pleased that all are moving forward in a good direction, for energy conservation and efficiency.

Councilor Roberts said that the Building Committee also needs to be invited to the Fireside Chat.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that members of both consulting firms, Chairperson of the Building Committee, and the Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations have been at the last meeting and are at this meeting as well. He apologized for having them attend both meetings. He said that there have been discussions about the energy piece for the project and its importance to the total project. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes.

Councilor Forrest said that the Energy Consultant should also be included in discussions.

Christine Fortunato, Chairperson of the School Buildings Committee, said that it would be helpful to know what the responsibilities of the different consultants will be so that the groups can work together.

Chairperson Adil said that the three pieces that came together were started because of the LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNS® (LEED) construction standards and certification that will be required. There are several certifications that the Town could go towards and it needs to decide what it wants to achieve. Also there are unintended consequences with the architects and the Town needs to know all the pieces of the puzzle. And lastly, items like energy development and alternate energy sources can be discussed. Some may or may not be part of the package that goes before the voters. The Building Committee will be taking direction from the Town Council after these groups give the Town Council their advice on how to proceed.

Christine Fortunato said that ultimately the charge of the Committee is to make sure the project meets the standards of the State. The Committee will be striving for energy conservation and efficiencies in the buildings. Getting the certification does cost some money and the Committee needs to get that direction from the Town Council.

Chairperson Adil said that if the Town pursues the LEED certification would that help the Town with some of the energy grants that the consultant has been hired to seek.

Fred Bushey, Superintendent of Maintenance and Operations, said that he does not believe that the actual LEED certification paperwork is necessary but the Town must follow the criteria. He has not heard anything that leads him to believe that by getting the paper, the Town will get anything more in grant money. It is still being researched though.

Chairperson Adil said that anyone with questions, please get them to the Town Manager now so that as much research can be completed now.

Councilor Kotkin said that this Building Committee has a trickier task than other Committees because in the past, the renovation projects were straightforward. Now there is this Silver LEED certification and also 2007 Legislation that has the availability for a lot of additional grants that could help the Town with energy parts of the renovation. The Building Committee is looking to do two buildings in Town, working with two architectural firms and this energy component.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE YEAR END TRANSFER OF \$16,222 IN FUNDS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED TRANSFER FORM AND TO TRANSFER \$95,325 FROM THE COMPENSATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL WAGE AND BENEFIT ACCOUNTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED TRANSFER**

8/25/08

14713

From:

1130-52225 Town Attorney-Support Services \$ 3,267

To:

1124-52215 Human Resources – Recruitment \$ 128

1124-52225 - Support Svcs \$ 106

1124-52247 - Labor Relations \$ 3,033

Recruitment Costs & Labor Attorney costs were higher than anticipated due to unexpected job vacancies and personnel issues. Union negotiations also. Funds are available in Support Services for the Town Attorney due to less than anticipated payments.

From:

1920-59250 Contingency \$9,960

To:

1224-52254 Vol. Ambulance - Electricity \$ 883

1224-52254 - Natural Gas \$8,991

1224-52275 - Repairs \$ 86

Utility and repair Costs were higher than anticipated. Funds are coming from Contingency.

From:

1920-59250 Contingency \$ 27

To:

1525-52212 Social & Youth Svc – Travel & Training \$ 27

The cost of mileage reimbursement increased beyond what had been budgeted due to the economic issues relating to the cost of gas and IRS rules regarding reimbursement. Funds are coming from Contingency.

From:

1920-57768-905 Debt - Bond Issuance Costs \$1,955

1920-59250 Contingency \$1,013

To:

1940-52258 Housing Authority – Sewer MDC \$2,968

Costs for Town required payment of Housing Authority MDC Sewer Bills were higher than anticipated. Funds are coming from Contingency and Debt Issuance costs. Funds were available in Debt Issuance cost because debt issuance was delayed and not issued within the FY 07-08 fiscal year.

From:

1960-52298 Compensated Absences \$95,325

To:

1120-50001 Town Manager – Wages \$15,021

1120-51100 Town Manager – Emp. Insurance \$ 4,031

1163-50001 Tax Collector – Wages \$ 4,353

1164-50001 Tax Assessor – Wages \$ 351

1450-50001 Engineering – Wages \$ 2,969

14714

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1457-50001	Physical Services – Wages¹	\$34,203
1457-51100	Physical Services – Emp. Insurance*	\$12,653
1525-50001	Social & Youth Svcs – Wages	\$ 891
1701-50001	Parks & Recreation - Wages	\$ 12,448
1701-51100	Parks & Recreation – Emp. Insurance	\$ 4,421
1702-50001	Community Center – Wages	\$ 2,944
1702-51100	Community Center – Emp. Insurance	\$ 1,040” seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that these are year end transfers for the last fiscal year. She said that she hopes that this is one of the last transfers needed to close the books.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR EQUIPMENT FROM THE STATEWIDE TACTICAL ON-SCENE COMMUNICATIONS (STOCS) BOX PROGRAM”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the State of Connecticut has announced a phase 2 of the Statewide tactical on-scene communication box program. The Town would like to take advantage of the program. It is to help the Town with interoperability of the communication systems and different frequencies. It will help with the Police Department’s portable radios. It is for \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth of equipment at no cost to the Town.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE STANDISH HOUSE LEASE”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that after many meetings and months, she is very pleased to present the last of the Historical Society leases with the Town. This was sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review and was approved as long as it was reviewed by the Town Attorney, which it was. All questions on both sides have been answered to everyone’s satisfaction.

Councilor Walsh thanked the Town Manager and Interim Historical Society Director Melissa Josefiak for all the time spent on this lease. The Town Attorney was extremely helpful with this lease, too. He also thanked Doreen Ciarcia for her work. He said that the Committee wanted to make sure that the relationship between the Town and the Historical Society was good and productive. The lease did take some additional time.

¹ *Includes costs for unemployment payments as well as Union/Administrative increases.

8/25/08

14715

Councilor Kotkin said that he remembers approving a master agreement a few years ago.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this lease was not included in that master lease because the Standish House is a private venture in the building. The other leases were similar, just the use of a building. This is the last lease.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO WAIVE THE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAZARDOUS SIDEWALK REPAIRS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH WESTPRO LTD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is \$50,000 in this year’s budget for sidewalk repairs that the Town must do. The current contractor is willing to keep the same pricing. This is for the renewal of the contract for work not to exceed \$50,000.

Councilor Kotkin asked if this will get the Town the amount of work it is expected to complete.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that it may get a little more work done but a little more work was found along the route, too.

Councilor Kotkin said that for years the Town has tried to improve the safety of the sidewalks in Town. Last year the Town was able to secure a \$100,000 reduction in the liability insurance and a lot of that was due to the fact that the Town had a much better record of repairs on the sidewalks over the last four or five years. This is something that the Town needs to keep investing money so that residents are safe and also to help control the insurance costs.

Chairperson Adil said that there were issues with the sidewalks on Wolcott Hill Road by handicap citizens and he is glad to see this work get underway.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None

MINUTES

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2008”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Walsh abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2008”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Walsh abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2008”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Roberts said that on page 14689 midway down the page, she asked that LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNS (LEEDS) be written out so that people know what it is.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Cascio, Kotkin and Roberts abstained. The motion passed 5-0-3.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:30 p.m., Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS AND UNION NEGOTIATIONS”** seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0. Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager was present during the Executive Session. No motions were made and no votes were taken. Councilor Roberts left executive session at 8:43 p.m.

At 8:57 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **“TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION”** seconded by Councilor Console. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:58 p.m., Councilor Console moved **“TO ADJOURN THE MEETING”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

*Approved by vote of Council
September 2, 2008*